

Application No.: 10/753,531

Docket No.: 2038-320

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A pull-on disposable wearing article comprising:

front and rear waist regions opposed to each other and a crotch region extending between said waist regions;

a waist-surrounding upper end margin defined by said front and rear waist regions and extending in a transverse direction;

transversely opposite waist lateral margins defined by said front and rear waist regions and extending in a longitudinal direction so that said waist lateral margins of said front and rear waist regions are connected to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes;

first and second leg-surrounding lateral margins defined by said crotch region and extending in a leg-surrounding direction;

a liquid-absorbent core laid in said front waist region, said rear waist region and said crotch region, or at least in said crotch region;

said crotch region being formed with a pair of first folding guide lines extending from two points on said first leg-surrounding lateral margin placed aside toward said front and rear waist regions, respectively, toward a transverse middle of said crotch region and a pair of second folding guide lines extending from two points on said second leg-surrounding lateral margin placed aside toward said front and rear waist regions, respectively, toward said transverse middle of said crotch region so that said crotch region is divided into a first zone enclosed by said first leg-surrounding lateral margin and said first folding guide lines so as to taper toward said transverse middle of said crotch region, a second zone enclosed by said second leg-surrounding lateral margin and said second folding guide lines so as to taper toward said transverse middle of said crotch region and a third zone except said first and second zones;

a first ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible member extending in the leg-surrounding direction across said first zone to said third zone is contractibly attached to the article inside the side edge of said core on the side of said first leg-surrounding lateral margin and a second

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elastieelastically stretchable and contractible member extending in the leg-surrounding direction across said second zone to said third zone is contractibly attached to the article inside the side edge of said core on the side of said second leg-surrounding lateral margin; and

said first zone being pulled inward as viewed in the leg-surrounding direction under a contractile force of said first elastieelastically stretchable and contractible member to form a tuck which is convex inwardly of said leg-hole and said second zone is pulled inward as viewed in the leg-surrounding direction under a contractile force of said second elastieelastically stretchable and contractible member to form a tuck which is convex inwardly of said leg-hole.

2. (currently amended) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second elastieelastically stretchable and contractible members exhibit a contraction percentage in a range of 25 to 70% on the basis of 100 representing a length of said first and second elastieelastically stretchable and contractible members having been stretched at a predetermined ratio.

3. (currently amended) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second elastieelastically stretchable and contractible members exhibit a stretch stress in a range of 0.1 to 3.0 N.

4. (Original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said core has stiffness lower in said first and second zones than in said third zone.

5. (Original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said core is absent in said first and second zones.

6. (Original) The wearing article according to Claim 1, wherein said article comprises a liquid-pervious sheet facing a wearer's body, a liquid-impervious sheet facing away from the wearer's body and said core interposed between these sheets.

7. (currently amended) The wearing article according to claim 1, further comprising two longitudinal barriers disposed on opposite sides of said core to prevent lateral leakage of bodily

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discharge, wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members are disposed between and inwardly spaced from entireties of said longitudinal barriers.

8. (**currently amended**) The wearing article according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9, wherein each of said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members is directly attached to said core.

9. (**currently amended**) The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members are disposed below said core, between said core and an impervious cover sheet covering a lower surface of said core.

10. (**currently amended**) The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members are shorter than said core as measured in the longitudinal direction of said article.

11. (**currently amended**) A disposable wearing article, comprising:  
front and rear waist regions opposed to each other and a crotch region extending in a longitudinal direction of said article between said waist regions;  
a liquid-absorbent core laid at least in said crotch region;  
a pair of first folding lines extending from a middle of said crotch region to a first longitudinal side edge of said article and toward said front and rear waist regions, respectively;  
a pair of second folding lines extending from said middle of said crotch region to an opposite, second longitudinal side edge of said article and toward said front and rear waist regions, respectively;

first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members extending in the longitudinal direction and intersecting said first and second folding lines, respectively; and

two longitudinal barriers disposed on opposite sides of said core to prevent lateral leakage of bodily discharge;

wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members are not part of any of said longitudinal barriers, and are disposed between and inwardly spaced, in a transverse direction of said article, from said longitudinal barriers; and

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wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members are pre-stretched so as to facilitate folding of said article along said first and second folding lines.

12. (currently amended) The wearing article according to claim 11, wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members exhibit a contraction percentage in a range of 25 to 70%, with said contraction percentage being determined by the formula

$$\{(A - B)/A\} \times 100$$

where A represents a pre-stretched length of the ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members and B represents a length of the ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members after contraction.

13. (currently amended) The wearing article according to claim 11, wherein said first and second ~~elastic~~elastically stretchable and contractible members exhibit a stretch stress in a range of 0.1 to 3.0 N.

14. (currently amended) The wearing article according to claim 11, wherein said core has a stiffness which is lower in first and second zones bordered by and inclusive of said first and second folding lines and the respective first and second longitudinal side edges than in a third zone outside said first and second zones.

15. (previously presented) The wearing article according to claim 11, wherein said core is absent in first and second zones bordered by said first and second folding lines and the respective first and second longitudinal side edges.

16. (currently amended) The wearing article according to ~~claim 11~~ claim 17, further comprising

a liquid-pervious top sheet adapted to face facing a wearer's body in use, and  
a liquid-impervious back sheet adapted to face facing away from the wearer's body in use,  
wherein  
said core is interposed between said top and back sheets;

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said top sheet has lateral portions each of which extends in the transverse direction outwardly beyond a periphery of said core, defines at least partially one of the longitudinal barriers, and is directly attached to one of the third elastically stretchable and contractible members.

17. (currently amended) The wearing article according to claim 11, further comprising third elastically stretchable and contractible members which are different from the first and second elastically stretchable and contractible members and are respectively joined, in a stretched state, to said longitudinal barriers so as to rise, in use, above said core and said first and second elastically stretchable and contractible members.

18. (currently amended) The wearing article according to ~~claim 11~~ claim 17, wherein each of said first and second elastically stretchable and contractible members is directly attached to said core.

19. (currently amended) The wearing article according to claim 16, wherein said first and second elastically stretchable and contractible members are disposed below said core, between said core and said liquid-impervious back sheet.

20. (currently amended) The wearing article according to ~~claim 17~~ claim 11, wherein said first and second elastically stretchable and contractible members are shorter than said core as measured in the longitudinal direction of said article.

21. (previously presented) The wearing article according to claim 11, wherein said core is folded along said folding lines.

22. (previously presented) The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said core is folded along said folding guide lines and is present in said tuck.